

BE PATIENT

Remember your new dog is experiencing a lot of changes at one time. To set your new dog and your family up for success you need to *slowly* help him/her acclimate to his/her new surroundings. We recommend for at least two weeks you focus strictly on getting your new dog familiar with your house, your family and his/her position in his/her new “pack”. *Do not* force interactions with him/her. Remember a scared dog’s options are “fight or flight”, so allow him/her to interact with you and your family when s/he is ready.

AVOID OVERWHELMING SITUATIONS

For at least two weeks **DO NOT** attempt to:

- ◆ Integrate your new dog with existing household pets
- ◆ Take your new dog on walks
- ◆ Visit other family members
- ◆ Take your new pet to the pet store
- ◆ Take your new pet for *unnecessary* car rides. Anne Arundel County Animal Control requires you take your pet to see your veterinarian within 5 days of adoption for a well veterinary visit.

Anne Arundel County
Animal Control

411 Maxwell Frye Rd
Millersville, MD 21122

410-222-8900
410-222-8915
www.aacounty.org/animalcontrol

Recommendations for Integrating Your New Dog into You Home



*Thank you
for
Adopting!*

MEETING NEW PEOPLE INCLUDING CHILDREN

We don't know for certain how your new pet was treated before it arrived at our shelter. Your first goal as the dog's new owner is getting your new pet comfortable with you and his/her place in your immediate family. After a few weeks with your family, slowly start introducing your pet to other new people, one person at a time. All introductions to new adults/children should be done with the dog on a leash. Always let the dog approach a new person; never allow the person to approach the dog, as this may make him/her feel cornered. Closely watch your dog's behavior and remove him/her from any situation where s/he exhibits signs of stress, particular signs of either "fight" (growling, hackles raise, showing teeth) or "flight" (attempting to dart or pull away from something/someone). Watch your new dog closely around its food, treats or toys; if s/he shows any signs of possession aggression, seek advice from an experienced dog trainer or your veterinarian. Show children (and adults) how to be respectful of your new dog and teach your new dog to respect all people, including children. After initial introductions the dog and new people should be closely supervised. **Children should never be left unattended with an animal.**

USE A CRATE

A crate with bedding should be set up in a quiet place. This will be your dog's personal den, where s/he can find comfort and solitude and feel safe and secure. It should be just large enough for the dog to stand up and turn around in. Your new dog should be fed meals in the crate and his/her space in the crate respected; do not allow anyone to go into the crate while the dog is inside. For the first two weeks, the new dog should be confined to the crate except for exercise, bathroom trips outside and 20-30 minute leashed interactions with your family inside your home. The crate should never be used as punishment, and the dog should not be crated for more than 3-4 hours at a time without a break. Only approach the dog if s/he is being quiet; if you approach while the dog is barking or whining in the crate that will reinforce those behaviors.

USE A LEASH

For at least the first two weeks your dog should be leashed whenever outside of his/her crate, including inside the home. The leash will allow you to maintain control of your new dog, help you monitor your new dog's activities and help your dog learn his/her position in the "pack." Your dog must always be on a leash when outside unless inside your securely fenced yard (this is the law in Anne Arundel County).

HOUSE TRAINING

Be patient. Even a dog who was previously housebroken is experiencing many changes, including schedule changes. Maintain a consistent schedule so the new dog can learn when s/he will have opportunities to eliminate. Use lots of praise when s/he eliminates in the appropriate area. *Do not* punish the dog for accidents. Remember: Be patient.

EXERCISE

A tired dog is a happy dog. During the first two weeks, exercise your new pet either with toys inside or on a lunge line (a very long leash) outside, even if you are in a fenced yard. After that, find additional ways to get your dog the exercise s/he needs. Always keep exercise fun and positive.

SEEK PROFESSIONAL ADVICE

Anne Arundel County Animal Control recommends that you look for an experienced dog trainer who can show you how to teach your dog, help you strengthen the human/animal bond and set your new pet up for success.